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Christopher Garvey aka Schlogopher aka Hothung_23edm
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Profession: 3
Favorite colour: Gin
Pastimes: Having 3 jobs and being an alcoholic doesn't leave
much time for hobbies. Did I mention I have a big wang?

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Free



by Rob Browatzke

fresh **...neurosis.** A monthly look at some aspect of gay life. I'm a gay male, and the gay male experience (well, my experience as a gay male anyway) is all I can talk about. What I say might apply to heterosexuals, bisexuals, transsexuals, asexuals, pansexuals, metrosexuals, but then again, it might not. You might not want to read it, but then again, you might. I might promise that every month won't be about sex, men, or dating, but then again, I might be lying.

fresh **...magazine.** Edmonton's new GLBT magazine, which this column appears in, which you knew since you're holding it as you read this. "Fresh Neurosis" does not reflect the views of the Fresh Magazine board or editors.

First NEUROSIS

...starts. Things end. Jobs, relationships, attitudes, addictions, all can stop, and you're left with the sometimes-daunting task of starting over. As scary as that can be, it can also be intensely exciting. The possibility of exploring new options, of travelling in new directions, of enacting life-altering changes, this is what makes fresh starts such wonderful opportunities. Who doesn't have, in their own life, something they'd love to change? Oh sure, it may be easier to leave things as they are. The status quo can be comfortable, and everyone knows a good rut can be hard to climb out of, but still, when you get the chance to fix, to finish, to fine-tune, leap at it. A fresh start is a tragic thing to waste.

...fruit. A nutritious addition to any meal, or even solo. Apparently, can also be used to help cover nudity.

...meat. Mad-cow or not, that hot young guy walking into a gay bar for the first time will always be on the market. The near-obsession with being the first person

to score with the new hotty is symptomatic of the oftentimes superficiality of the gay male nightclub world. Sure, getting that stud that's just recently become single is still good, but even better is landing the stud who just moved to town. That entitles you to a much deeper notch on the headboard. So what if it makes you seem shallow, slutty, or otherwise just... faggy. Fresh meat is a delicious meal to eat.

...air. Something Edmonton will have more of now with this non-smoking thing happening. As a former smoker who quit smoking July 1 (and hasn't gone back yet), I am of two minds on the issue, but as you'll discover from future columns, I am of two minds on most issues.

...breath. One important component of hygiene. Another important part of hygiene, one that is more applicable to this column, is sexual freshness. Sex can be messy enough, and it is important to be clean. The human body produces many things that may interfere with your enjoyment of the sexual act, but simple

procedures like showering and douching can save so much embarrassment, discomfort, and yuckiness. I'd elaborate, but this is the "first" column after all. Fresh breath is a good place to start.

...flowers. A lovely way of telling someone you want to do him.

...faces. Life can be, perhaps, best measured in the people you meet. Everyone has a story to tell, and every story has a lesson to impart. Making new friends is always desirable, but even if the relationship doesn't evolve into friendship, meeting new people is always advantageous. You never know what opportunities may come along, what connections may be made, what experiences may be shared. Make it a point of striking up conversations with strangers. A friendly hello, a charming smile, who knows where it might lead. A fresh face is a wonderful thing to see. ▽





Here's..... G.L.C.C.E.

Did you know that the **Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton** provides resources, referrals, and support about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues? It is true, we do help people through times of crisis, including coming out, but that is far from all we do.

We have a drop-in centre from 7-10pm Monday to Friday where anyone can come in, check out our library, sign up to volunteer or become a GLCCE member, talk with a peer supporter, hang out, use the free internet access, or get a referral for a gay or gay-friendly doctor, lawyer, sports group, event, business, etc. We also have a community room that groups can use free of charge for meetings. Referrals and peer support can also be accessed by phone during drop-in hours.

I am the Program Administrator at GLCCE. I started on April 28 with a six month contract. My purpose is to support existing programs and services, develop resources, and develop new programs.

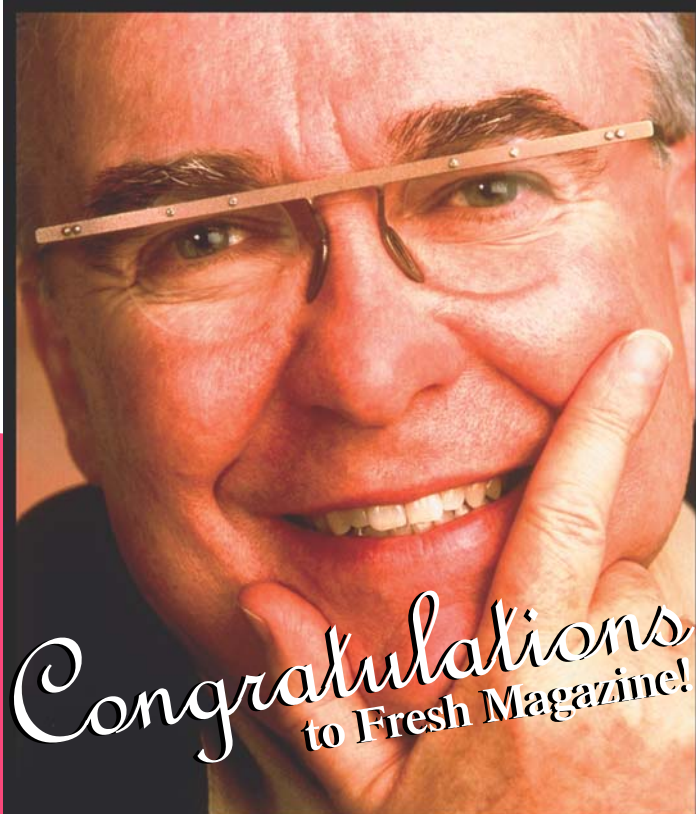
Get involved with GLCCE and help make it the Centre of the Community! I can be reached at glcceedm@telus.net and (780)488-3234.

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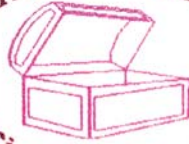
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What are You Looking For?

by Jen Buxton

It is fascinating to me that in a community as marginalized as the queer community is that we would continually perpetuate stereotypes onto ourselves that many of us adamantly deny as being any accurate representation of who we really are. Our identity and our sense of sexuality is shaped so much by external forces. And as gays and lesbians our role models both in and outside the media are even more limited. Because of this the images we do receive carry that much more power. Based on the limited information most of us receive during our coming out process it would be very easy to fall into the trap of transforming our bodies and our behaviour to fit whatever normative mold we know to be true.

Lesbians everywhere will roll their eyes in remorseful understanding about the U-Haul syndrome that unfortunately seems to afflict our population. You meet a girl, you say it's "just casual", and then this time next week you are living together and talking about everything in terms of "we" and "us." It is a common running joke, but I wonder how many of us have stopped to analyze why this phenomenon even exists at all. And while I don't suggest that we all throw monogamy out the window, perhaps we need to look at a less co-dependant compromise.

Many of my lesbian friends crack jokes about how promiscuous gay men are, and I laugh to myself over this. It is hard to tell whether this is something that genuinely offends their sensibilities or rather a manifestation of jealousy. Sometimes sex just for the sake of sex is okay. But I don't think women of any orientation often let themselves believe that. It is so ingrained in our psyches to pursue emotional connections before physical



ones. This is valid, and necessary in a lot of ways, but I fear that that hesitancy to be overtly sexual comes from women not wanting to even view themselves as sexual beings. Even back in high-school when most of us were cloaked in the façade of heterosexuality the double standard of the sexes caused a lot of us lesbians to be asexual instead of hyper sexual. The guy that is sleeping around is a stud, but a girl sleeping around is a slut. And while much of this misogynistic ideal has very heterosexual roots the impact of the patriarchy affects all women yes even us lesbians!

You meet a girl you say it's "just casual", and then this time next week you are living together and talking about everything in terms of "we" and "us"

So what's a girl to do? We all want to be loved, and nobody, okay correction very few of us, wants to be the town slut. Is there a middle ground? I would venture to say yes. It seems to me that the problem lies in the fact that most women are not aroused simply by visual and tactile stimulation. Most of us want to be seduced whether that be mentally, spiritually, emotionally or all of the above. The real battle then lies in not confusing the lust of foreplay with the passions of love. But can we as women really do that? I think we can, but in the end we may have to put in a little more effort to make life's casual flings remain purely casual.

We must tread lightly in the world of physical intimacy. Try as some may to be the boigrl players of the world we must remember in the end that we are girls. And like it or not society has affected the way we feel about sex to some extent. The hidden tape recorder is always playing and seeking for love over lust probably even in the horniest of us. This is a difficult opponent to be up against when we are talking about trying to separate the heart from the body. But separate we must if we want to maintain our sanity. To not do so means to fall for every woman you have good sex with. I think most of us would agree that relationships solely based on "good sex" don't have the greatest shelf life.

It would be arrogant at best, which I can be from time to time, to assume that every lesbian is pursuing the same type of intimate connection. The diversity of our needs is just as broad as the spectrum of women that make up our community. Some just need sex. Some just need love. Some only want to flirt. And then there are those that need all three. Those are the people that need watch out for casual sex relationships. If you fall into the all of the above category I come to heed you warning: please proceed with caution hearts may be broken! With that being said, I think we all need our time playing the field. There is no shame in getting a taste of what's out there before you finally settle down. Just be clear about what you are looking for otherwise you may not be very happy with what is lying in your bed or your heart. ▽





By Freedom or Nature - Part I

by Michelle Westgeest

I am not part of the gay and lesbian community per se, and thus you may find my commentary on gay life irrelevant. But, as an observer of your community I believe my opinion is educated and consequently valid. The following is the gay world according to me - take it or leave it.

I was shocked into the gay community about a year ago when I started working at The Garage. I started not knowing that The Garage was a gay establishment. Are you wondering how that's possible? Well I came into the restaurant for the first time on a Thursday, got a job on Friday, and started on Saturday. My first day I felt like I was in the twilight zone having never known anyone who was gay and not really realizing anyone was gay until, after working for seven hours, I began to notice the posters in Boots. Not one of my brighter moments I realize, but a moment nonetheless.

"To be perfectly honest, when I learned that all my co-workers were gay I was a little leery"

To be perfectly honest, when I learned that all my co-workers were gay I was a little leery, but within a week nearly all my preconceived notions about gay life were eradicated, and I'm now proud to call several members of your community friends. Which brings me back to my validity - eating, drinking, working, and talking with people of a community I never really knew existed opened my eyes to the drastic differences in perception and reality. I was wrong when I thought that every gay man's dream was to be my personal shopper, and when I

thought all lesbians had an unusual affection for plaid. However, some of my pre-conceived notions remain the same. For instance, I still believe that partaking in gay life is a choice. Now you can stop reading this now and throw this silly little paper across the room in disgust, which I wouldn't blame you for, or you can read on and learn why I believe this...

Being gay is biological; I have no doubts about that. Although there may be rare cases where a child is socialized in a particular manner which brings about a more effeminate boy or masculine girl, by in large, homosexuality is not a personal choice. Did I just contradict myself? No. I said, "Partaking in gay life is a choice." Look at your own community. Look at all the older men who have been married, and have children, but now practice a gay lifestyle. I doubt that they had their children and then suddenly decided to experiment. They were who they have been all along, but they chose not to express part of themselves for whatever reason whether it be personal or social. No one chooses homosexuality, they choose the gay lifestyle. If they choose the gay lifestyle, that is their choice, and to be a properly adjusted individual that is probably a good choice for most homosexuals. The problem with choice is consequences. The gay lifestyle can be very difficult at times I am sure, although I don't even pretend to begin to realize how hard it may be. What bothers me is hearing some individuals hiding behind the fact that they are gay as an excuse for all their problems. What I have to say to that is "Gay life is a choice," and its one that must be lived with. Everything is a choice. Take it or leave it. ▽



Edmonton Pride parade 2003

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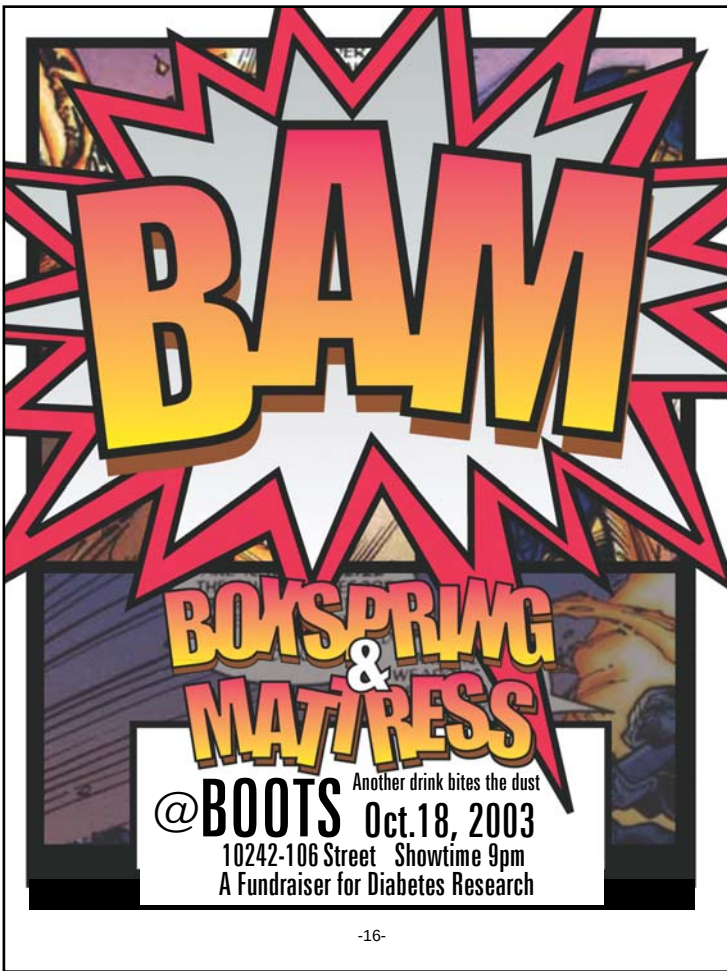
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By the Bi

Arron Kardolus

bythebi@hotmail.com

Bisexuality. Homosexuality. Heterosexuality. Pansexuality. Transsexuality. Asexuality. Which are you? Does it matter? Why? A bisexual woman and a homosexual woman are attracted to each other. They're attracted to each other. Does there have to be anything else? Apparently so. In my time, I have met many gay-identifying women, and a few men, who think everything is fine until they find out I'm bisexual. Then, suddenly, what I have to say and who I am loses all value. Why is that? I have friends who are placing bets that one day I'll label myself as a lesbian and forget all this bi stuff. Can't they just accept me for who I am? I consider myself blessed. When I'm attracted to someone or when I fall in love, it is 100% about personality and who they are and 0% about what gender they happen to be, be presenting, or have been. I think that makes me one hell of a lucky person. So maybe it's jealousy then. Maybe that's why so many people refuse to believe that my sexuality exists, that it's valid. Just as most straight people did not choose to be straight and most gay people did not choose to be gay, I did not choose to be bi. I just am. According to the Kinsey scale of sexuality, on the one side you have everyone who is 100% gay and on the other side is everyone who is 100% straight. The **HUGE** amount of space in between is bisexual. If you are generally only attracted to the same sex, only date the same sex, but occasionally have fantasies about the opposite sex, Kinsey would consider you bisexual. If you date someone of the same sex but all of your friends are of the opposite sex because you're most comfortable with them, Kinsey would consider you bisexual. Now, I'm not saying I agree whole-heartedly with everything that Kinsey has to say - I specifically disagree with the forced dichotomy of sexuality and gender in our culture. The world is not black and white and maybe someday people will realize that there aren't just two boxes for every 'identity' to cram people into. Maybe there's more than three? Who knows? Diversity makes the world go round. What direction does your world spin? ▽



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Photo from Edmontons Black Solstice 2003

Let's Talk About S & M

By Heather Levie

I've long had an interest in the S & M world. I've been involved in it since I was 15 or so and let me tell you a lot has changed in 16 years. I won't get into my history right now as I don't think it would help you without some sort of guide to the language I'll be using in future articles. So with that said, I shall present to you a small lexicon of words & sayings that may help you to follow along as I discuss in the future:

Bondage
Sadism & Masochism
Fisting
Candles & Waxing
Fireplay

...anything else I can think up

And now for your perusal (you may wish to keep this article just for the definitions and so you can look them up further online):

BDSM: Bondage Discipline Sadism & Masochism. 80's PC/quasi feminist words made up to



make what I do sound more palatable to the masses... IE those who were freaked out that I enjoyed fisting gay guys & then whipping them till they bled. Akin to putting sugar in coffee.

S/M or S & M: Sadism & Masochism. I like these words. I'm Old Guard. Similar to Old School for you young'ins. It also means I often have disagreed with the up & coming newblots who haven't learned the way I have.

Submissive: one who submits. IE, me. At least in this context. I am also a Domme or Top. (We'll get to that in a minute). In this context it means I give over my body/mind/emotional well-being to my Domme/Mistress.

Switch: One who both Tops/Dom(mme)s & bottoms/submits. May have a strong preference for one or the other. Or may not. It isn't usual for someone to be able to do both equally well but it has been known to happen.

Slave: Hard to explain but basically another level of submissive. Usually someone who isn't happy to just submit but needs to go further into their headspace & really "live" as slave

(mentally/emotionally/physically). Can involve heavier play but not necessarily. This ones hard to define and until I can find a better definition I'll stick with this. Its not nearly as nebulous as some I've read that confuse newbies. (Lets not get into what makes a slave a slave & a sub a sub. K? I get bitchy when that argument is raised. Its extremely complex & if you really want to hear it all you can easily search google for the information.)

Mistress/Top/Domme or Dom:

Dom is male. Domme is female. Top is either. The sadist/disciplinarian/person who gives pain or makes it stop. Clear?

Bottom/insert: adjective or noun or verb here that your Top uses when referring to you=this is the same as slave/submissive. See above.

Scene: Time spent doing...whatever it is that turns you on. This can be bondage, roleplay, fisting, caning/spanking/flogging/whipping, ice/fire play, etc ad nauseum.

Scene Wear/Fet(ish) Wear: What you wear or don't wear to scene in. IE rubber, lace, leather, jock strap/g-string, weights only, blah blah...

Contract: usually between a slave & Master/Mistress. There are various ones & they are all diff. Depending on the level of complexity you wish, you can make it so a lawyer is required to read it or you can make it as simple as something that says, "I'm yours for tonight, do as you wish."

In future columns I shall discuss my own history in S/M. I'll try to expand on some of these definitions with real life examples of things I've done or done to people in my life. If I think of more examples I'll try to write about them too... and of course as I experience things I shall write about them if I can.

For now I hope this will help you understand a bit of the world I live in.▽

Mini-Profile

Ian Mckellan



Gandalf in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and Magneto in *X-men* is gay, but did you know, he is also an activist.

Interleaved with Sir Ian's full diary of acting engagements, he finds as much time as he can to support STONEWALL GROUP UK (website: www.stonewall.org.uk) of which he is a founder-member. Stonewall works to establish legal and social equality for lesbians and gays in the United Kingdom. As well as serving as a member of Stonewall, Sir

Ian is chair of the IRIS TRUST, the charity attached to Stonewall.

From:
<http://www.mckellan.com/>▽



Transsexual Musings

By elshye

First of all: Hi. :)

Now that's out of the way...you may be wondering what it is I am here to say. Well for starters I'm not here to rant, whine, bitch, moan or start rumours. At least not today.

What I will start with is my name. My name is elshye and I suppose you're wondering why I don't use my real name right about now. Well the reason is fairly straightforward: I don't need to be stalked, harassed, people to dig out my past & figure out my male name & harass me or

horrified by the startling development of male attributes. I was horrified for two reasons. One, I always believed that I'd grow up to be a woman anyway and that this "boy thing" was a part of my childhood alone. (Some TS's I'd meet later in life confirmed that they had similar thoughts growing up; or if they were religious they prayed to wake up a girl someday.) Two, I had always wanted the feminine hips, the breasts and the general curves I saw that my mother & other female figures in my life had. I lacked that up until puberty and I always just took it for granted that my body would conform to whom I was internally at that magical time called adolescence.

Adolescence seems to be an especially tough time for T*'s in general. We have to fight very hard during our teen years to define who we are to both ourselves and others. Sometimes we develop two



my g/f. This is the world we live in though, so I do this under my scene name. And to head off any criticism: No I'm not unproud of who I am or anything of the sort. I am just realistic in that I know there are people out there who aren't necessarily all right in their heads. You get the idea. Some of you may have heard of me, or know me personally. For all of those out there who don't, what follows is a brief history of me and my life so far.

I often found myself segregated from both sexes at this age, as the guys didn't understand me, and the girls didn't like boys.

I have known since a young age (around 5 years old) that I was a very different boy from the rest of the ones in my class. While they wished to play with cars, run around with footballs and race bikes, I was much more content to investigate the river near my house in the country and play with the girls when I could. I often found myself segregated from both sexes at this age, as the guys didn't understand me, and the girls didn't like boys. This seems to be a rather common experience among most trans-people.

When puberty came around, I was

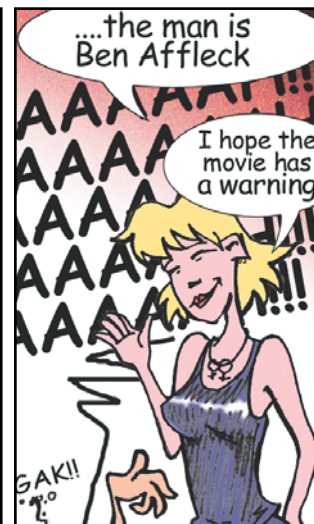
different identities, one internal and one external. On top of that, imagine having conflicts to do with your sexuality and you rapidly begin to believe that you just might be a little nuts.

After several years and a few therapists, I finally found out on my own what a Transsexual is. I happened upon the word in a dictionary for gays & lesbians that focused on sexuality and its variants.

When I found out that the word Transsexual could be applied to me, a lot of things fell into place very quickly. Unfortunately I was not able to pursue hormone replacement therapy (HRT), the Real Life Test/Transition into womanhood for the next ten years. ▽

(Editor's Note: elshye's story will continue in the next issue of Fresh)

Queerly Mistaken by Michael Anne

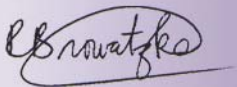


**From the editors of
fresh magazine**

After a few delays, we are proud to have brought you the premiere issue of Fresh. We hope you are enjoying reading it as much as we enjoyed putting it together. It was our goal to provide you with an entertaining and informative product that is representative of our community's diversity and we hope we accomplished that. We will constantly be adding new features and more pages as our advertising base expands and we look forward to being a voice in and for Edmonton's GLBT community for years to come.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us during our creation.

Editor-in-chief
Rob Browatzke



Associate Editor
Michael Brown



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review

Queer As Folk: The Third Season - Music From... (Tommy Boy)

CD review by Sheldon L'henaff

By now everyone has probably made sure that they're caught up with Liberty Ave.'s favorite homosexuals. As with each emotionally charged, fun season that Queer As Folk has been on Showcase, a just as emotionally charged, fun soundtrack comes along with it. This season's soundtrack is no exception, capping off what has been the series' best season yet. Some differences in comparison to last season's soundtrack is that there are two discs instead of the standard one. Disc one is a palette of Babylon's seasoned rhythms, with tracks by Cassius, Divine, IIO, and Yoko Ono. (Her song "Walking on Thin Ice" has been given the tribal house treatment a la Danny Tenaglia). While disc one stirs the feet, the second disc tends to stir the soul. With a crossection of moody electronica and good ol' fashioned rock n' roll, the second disc is a shining reflection of the moments that stirred the emotions. A nod goes out to Matthew Good for "Weapon" as well as Pete Townsend's exploration of early 80's bisexuality in his song "Rough Boys". While one major drawback is both discs tend to be too short, it's plain to see that the quality factor has been beefed up to ensure this soundtrack to be a must have ▽



review



Madonna - American life (Maverick/Warner)

CD review by Sheldon L'henaff

Madonna said it best in her title track from the new album. "I..tried to be a boy.. I tried to be a girl.." and her resume just spills out in song. Her latest offering to the musical landscape, not only is a confessional that continues to expose her as an artist with substance, but musically is a combination between the old and new world, something that Ray of Light and Music touched on briefly. American Life could most possibly be the compliment to the spookiness harboured in Ray of Light. Like the former, she has a lot to say about love, life and politics. The title track and other tracks like "I'm So Stupid" as well as "Hollywood" have her grappling with the concept of fame, greed and wanting to be a celebrity. While fame has been excellent to her, she realizes that even if it all disappeared and was left with hubby Guy Ritchie and her two children Lourdes and Rocco, that she would still be the happiest/luckiest person on the planet. A good example is the song "Nothing Fails", which starts from a simple guitar chord and swells into a heavenly choir, a la "Like a Prayer". Professions of love also echo out on "X-Static Process" as well as "Intervention". The album closes off with "Easy Ride", which in a way just reinforces her point of view on life and the American Dream. While the album is not the most party friendly album she's ever put out, it can be said that Madonna's musical growing up has been nothing short of astounding. American Life is the palette of the simple fused with complex, and a prime example of how Madonna still is relevant and groundbreaking on her own terms ▽



Edmonton Queer Community Group Listings

GLCCE

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre
Providing resources, referrals and support about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues.
#45, 9912-106 Street, Edmonton, AB. (780)488-3234
www.edmc.net/glcce
Open Monday-Friday Office Hours 1:30-5:30 and Drop-In 7-10pm

HIV Edmonton

New address
105, 10550 - 102 Street
Edmonton, AB T5H 2T3
mail@hivedmonton.com (all general email, specific will be forwarded to appropriate staff)
www.hivedmonton.com

The purpose of the HIV Network of Edmonton Society's, serving Edmonton and its regions, is to educate, provide support to and advocate on behalf of those infected and affected by HIV and related conditions and to engage in health promotion and harm reduction with all populations.

ISCWR

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose
For 27 years, the Court has been here to fundraise for charities and local organizations. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of the Month at the Garage at 8:30 PM. Email the court at wildrosecourt@yahoo.com and visit us

online at
<http://www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt>

Northern Chaps

Northern Chaps, P O Box 74042, Peppertree RPO, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2S7

Northern Chaps is Edmonton's Original leather, latex, fetish and uniform club founded in February 1984 and is based in Edmonton, Alberta.

Everyone is welcome to join!

Northern Chaps is not a sex club. Our mission is to provide our members with a safe environment to learn more about the leather, latex, fetish and uniform lifestyles and to meet others

with similar interests.

Visit us, in person, the first and third Saturday of every month starting at 10PM at Buddy's Nite Club (11725B Jasper Avenue).

OUTreach

outreach U of A GBLT-Q Group
Box 75 SUB
U of A
Edmonton, AB T6J 4J7

www.ualberta.ca/~outreach
outreach@ualberta.ca

An academic atmosphere for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and queer friendly youth, students, staff, faculty and community. We meet every tuesday during the school year @ 5pm at Athabasca Hall with coffee every tuesday after (even in summer).

Womonspace

womonspace is a publication of the

Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edonton, a non-profit volunteer organization. Our purpose is to inform and entertain our members and other interested lesbians.

Womonspace Social and Recreational Society
Phone: (780) 482-1794
Box 128, Main PO
Edmonton, AB T5J 3J4

Visit our website at
www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/

Youth Understanding Youth

Come and join us every Saturday

from 7:00-9:00pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Edmonton, #45,9912-106st Edmonton, Alberta.

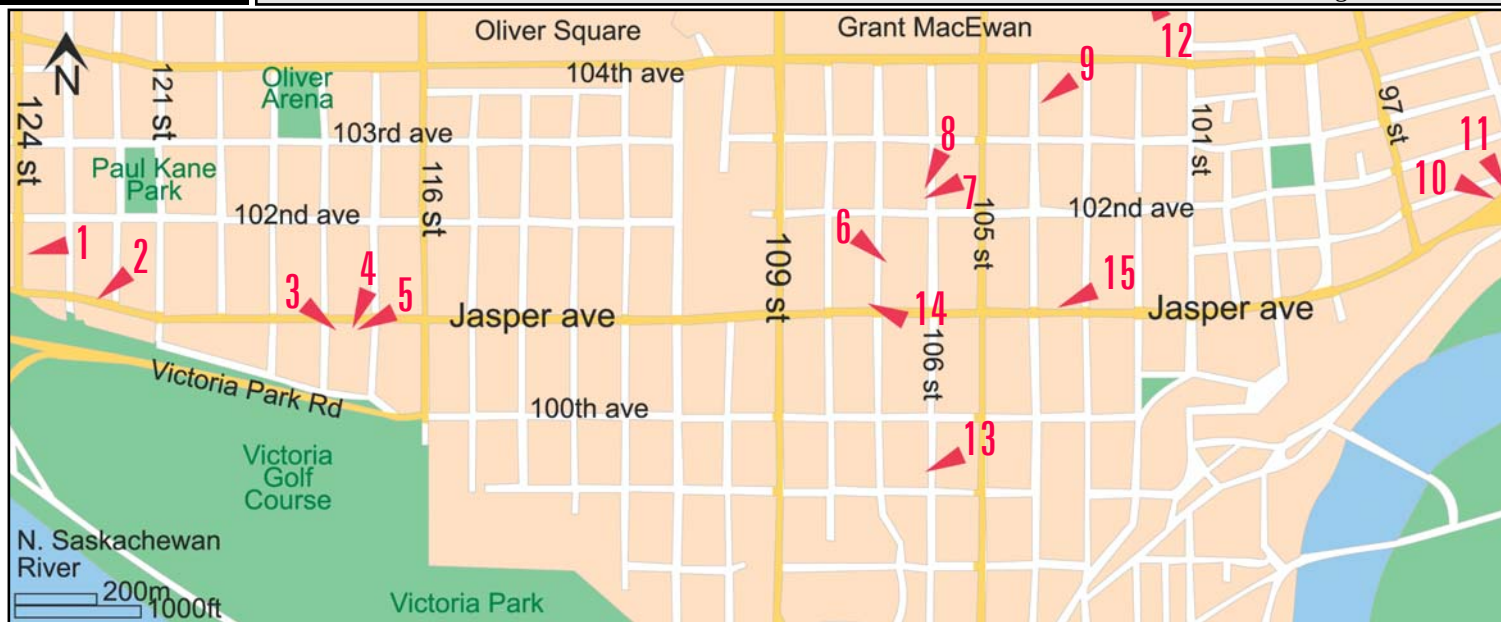
The mission of Youth understanding Youth is to provide a warm and friendly place where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, straight, and questioning youth, who are under the age of 25, can gather together to have fun and learn about themselves and others in a safe, supportive and caring environment.

<http://yuyouth.tripod.com/>

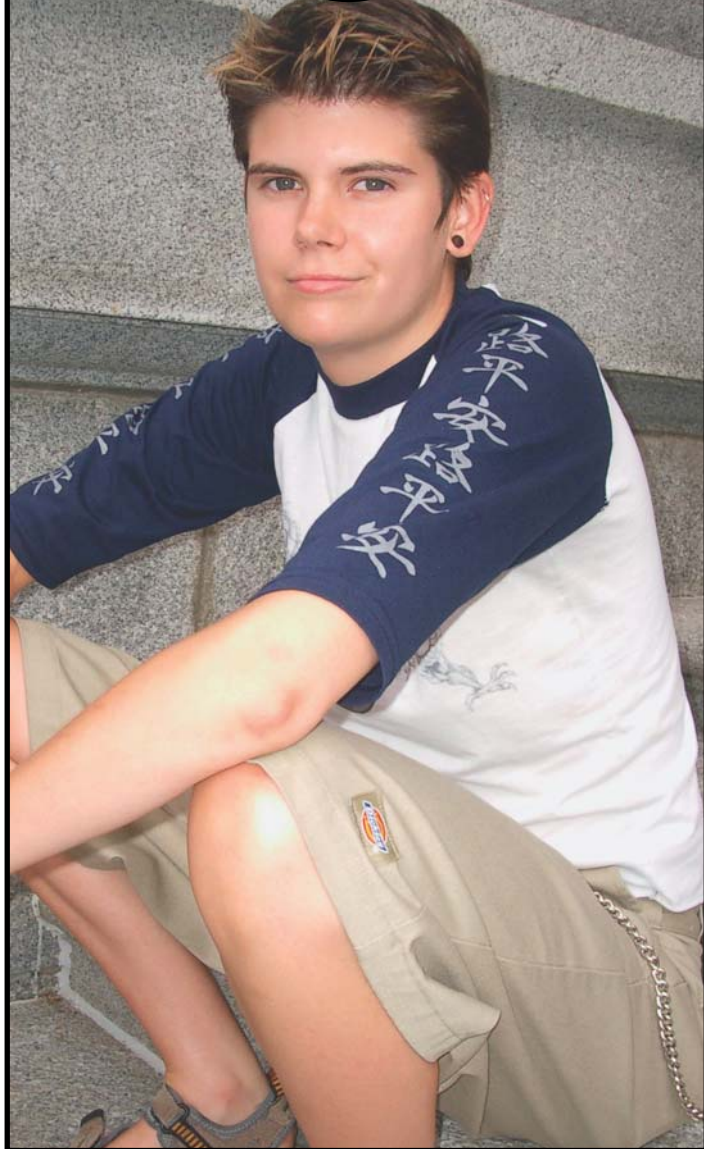
Do you have a community group for the Queer Listings or a location for Gay Edmonton Downtown? Email us the up to date info at freshmagazine@shaw.ca

Gay Edmonton Downtown

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Pride Video | 4 Woody's Pub | 7 Boots Bar | 10 Steamers bath house | 13 G.L.C.C.E |
| 2 Down Under Bath house | 5 Buddy's Night Club | 8 Garage Restaurant | 11 B& D Emporium | 14 Audreys Books |
| 3 Express Video | 6 Prism Bar & Grill | 9 The Roost Private Members Night Club | 12 HIV Edmonton | 15 Front Page magazines |



fresh. girl



Jen Buxton If you find this hottie familiar it may be because Jen has been a steady fixture in Edmonton's queer scene for the past 6 years.

This hardcore Gemini has a passion for writing, the outdoors, women, music, and controversy! You can take a closer look at her, and her writing throughout this inaugural issue of Fresh.

She finds constant refuge in the loyalty of gay men, and can often be seen tearing it up with them at the Roost, and pouring them drinks while she bartends at Boots. But don't fret ladies you still come first in her heart.

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